

09/942,812

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 were pending in the application for reconsideration. Applicants have canceled claims 9-20 without prejudice or disclaimer and added new claims 21-32 for consideration.

Applicants have canceled claims 9-20 for business reasons not related to patentability. Namely, to expedite the issuance of the present application. Applicants disagree with and do not acquiesce to the rejections of claims 9-20. Applicants expressly reserve the right to file a continuation application on these or other claims.

COMMENTS ON STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

Applicants disagree with and do not acquiesce to the Examiner's statement of reasons for allowance in numbered paragraph 16. Applicants submit that claims 1-8 are allowable for the reasons set forth in applicants' appeal brief.

In any event, applicants wish to thank the Examiner for allowing claims 1-8. In order to expedite the issuance of the present application, applicants have canceled rejected claims 9-20, without prejudice or disclaimer, in order to place the application in condition for allowance. Newly added claims 21-32 correspond to the subject matter of allowed claims 1-8.

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In view of the foregoing, the application is considered to be in condition for allowance. Early notification of the same is earnestly solicited. If there are any questions regarding the present application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

March 24, 2006

Date

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Respectfully submitted,

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